

What is claimed is:

1. A portable terminal having an open state and a closed state, said portable terminal comprising:

a first housing having at least a display unit with a screen;

a second housing having at least an input unit;

a detecting means for detecting opening of either of said housings;

and

a control means for controlling said screen of said display unit;

wherein said first housing is openably and closably connected to said second housing, wherein said display unit is visible to a user in at least said closed state of said portable terminal, and wherein, when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control means changes said screen of said display unit to an input screen.

2. The portable terminal according to claim 1 further comprising a selecting unit for selecting an item displayed on said display unit, wherein when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control device changes said screen with an item selected by said selecting unit to an input screen corresponding to said item.

3. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein said portable terminal is a personal digital assistant.

4. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein said portable terminal is a portable telephone.

5. A portable terminal having a closed state and an open state, said portable terminal comprising:

a first housing having at least a display unit with a screen;

a second housing having at least an input unit;

a detecting means for detecting opening of either of said housings;

and

a control means for controlling said screen of said display unit;

wherein said first and said second housings are openably and closably connected together, wherein said display unit is visible to the user in said closed state and in said open state of said portable terminal, wherein said input unit is visible to a user in said open state, and wherein, when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control means changes said screen of said display unit to an input screen.

6. The portable terminal according to claim 5, wherein said portable terminal is a personal digital assistant.

7. The portable terminal according to claim 5, wherein said portable terminal is a portable telephone.

8. A portable terminal having a closed state and an open state, said portable terminal comprising:

a first housing having at least a display unit, said display unit being switchable between an input mode and a non-input mode;

a second housing having at least an input unit;

a detecting means for detecting opening of either of said housings;

and

a control means for switching said display unit between said non-input mode and said input mode;

wherein said housings are openably and closably connected together, wherein said display unit is visible to a user in said closed state of said portable terminal, and wherein when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control means switches said display unit from said non-input mode to said input mode.

9. A portable terminal having a closed state and an open state, said portable terminal comprising:

a first housing having at least a display unit, said display unit including a screen changeable between an input screen and a non-input screen;

a second housing having at least an input unit;

a detecting means for detecting opening of either of said housings;

a reception means for receiving an electronic mail message; and

a control means for selectively displaying said received electronic mail message on said screen of said display unit and for changing said screen of said display unit;

wherein said housings are openably and closably connected together, wherein said display unit is visible to a user in said closed state, and wherein when said detecting means detects opening of either of said housings, said control means changes said non-input screen displaying said received e-mail to said input screen for editing based on said received e-mail.

10. The portable terminal according to claim 9, wherein said control means changes said non-input screen displaying said received e-mail to said input screen and displays said received e-mail on said input screen.

11. A method of displaying an input screen of a display unit of a portable terminal having housings openably and closably connected together, comprising the steps of:

selecting an item to be displayed on said display unit while said portable terminal is in a closed state; and

changing a non-input screen of said display unit having an item selected thereon to an input screen corresponding to said selected item when either of said housings is opened from said closed state.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said non-input screen has a guide view informing a user to open either of said housings from said closed state.

13. A method of displaying an input screen of a display unit of a portable terminal having housings openably and closably connected together, comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic mail message;

displaying said received electronic mail message on a non-input screen of said display unit; and

changing said non-input screen displaying said received electronic mail message to an input screen for editing based on said received electronic mail message when either of said housings is opened from its closed state.

14. The method according to claim 13, wherein said non-input screen has a guide view informing a user to open either of said housings from said closed state.